

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRISBA 00311 150725Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 /021 W

-----095725 151213Z /44

R 150632Z AUG 78

FM AMCONSUL BRISBANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1134

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS BRISBANE 311

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AS

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: BRISBANE RIVER CROSSING

1. THE LONG-DISCUSSED EASTERN BRISBANE RIVER CROSSING APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO FRUTITION. QUEENSLAND (QLD) MAIN ROADS MINISTER, RUSS HINZE, ANNOUNCED AUGUST 14 THAT TENDERS WILL BE CALLED SOON. COST ESTIMATES FOR A BRIDGE RANGE FROM US DOLLS 60 - 70 MILLION, FOR A TUNNEL, ABOUT US DOLLS 180 MILLION (ALL 1978 DOLLARS). A 1985 COMPLETION DATE IS ANTICIPATED.

2. COMPETITION, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, IS LIKELY TO BE BRISK AND THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE MOST DISPOSED TOWARDS A JOINT VENTURE.

3. NO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PARTICIPATION IS CONTEMPLATED.

4. QLD. GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETING A DOLLS 200,000 DESIGN/FEASIBILITY STUDY WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO POTENTIAL TENDERERS FOR A DOLLS 500 (US DOLLS 590 APPROX).

5. INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: SPECIAL PROJECTS ENGINEER, MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT, GPO BOX 1412, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA, 4001.

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6. QLD. GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING WITH ANY ORGANIZATION WILLING TO FINANCE AND CONSTRUCT THE ENTIRE PROJECT. THE GOVT. WOULD BE WILLING TO GUARANTEE LOANS AND GIVE THE BUILDER/ FINANCIER TOLL RIGHTS WITH ROYALTY PAYMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TOLL RIGHT PERIOD WOULD BE AROUND 30 YEARS AND THE ROYALTY PAYMENTS 10 PERCENT. ROYALTY PAYMENTS WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE CONNECTING ROADS. IT WOULD BE

UP TO THE TENDERER TO DECIDE BETWEEN A TUNNEL OR A BRIDGE HIGH ENOUGH TO CLEAR OCEAN-GOING SHIPS. QUALIFIED TENDERER WHICH OFFERED THE SHORTEST TOLL PERIOD AND THE HIGHEST ROYALTY RATE WOULD PROBABLY BE THE ONE SELECTED.

7. TENDERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE LET IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1978.

8. PRE REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED, BUT INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GET THEIR NAMES ON A MAILING LIST BY WRITING TO THE ADDRESS IN PARA 5.

CUMMINGS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014